

CIPROFLOXACIN

(Ciprofloxacin, Ciprol, Cifran, C-flox)

What is Ciprofloxacin?

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic that is used to treat bacterial infections. It is often used in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) who may have an infection in their gut or after surgery. Ciprofloxacin is also used in patients with perianal fissures, fistulas or abscesses. Your doctor may prescribe ciprofloxacin for several months.

How do I take it?

Ciprofloxacin is best taken on an empty stomach, swallowed whole with a glass of water. Your doctor will prescribe a dose and regime that is appropriate for your condition.

What if I forget a dose?

If you forget a dose of ciprofloxacin, take it as soon as you remember. If you are taking the drug more than once a day, take your dose if it is more than 4 hours before your next dose. Otherwise, take the next dose as usual. Do not double up on the dose.

Can I take other medications?

Ciprofloxacin can be taken with other medicines but is important you tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking. This includes over-the-counter medicines, patches, eye drops, and herbal or alternative therapies.

What are the side effects?

Most people tolerate ciprofloxacin very well. Common side effects of ciprofloxacin include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal cramping, skin rash and raised liver function tests. Less common side effects are dizziness, thrush and flu-like symptoms. Uncommon but important side effects include pain or tingling in the back of the lower legs, mood changes, kidney dysfunction, low blood count and inflammation of the pancreas. A severe allergic reaction is a very rare side effect of ciprofloxacin. Direct sun exposure should be avoided as ciprofloxacin can make people more sensitive to the sun and prone to sunburn.

Pregnancy and Ciprofloxacin

Ciprofloxacin is generally considered safe in pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, please inform your doctor so they can discuss treatment options with you. Breastfeeding is not recommended while taking ciprofloxacin.

What do I do if I feel unwell?

It is important to report pain or tingling in the back of the lower leg, as well as severe nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea to your gastroenterologist, GP or IBD nurse. You may need to stop taking ciprofloxacin.

Who do I contact for help?

You can contact the IBD Helpline on (03) 9288 3592 during business hours. Private patients can contact their gastroenterologist's private rooms directly.

For urgent matters outside of business hours, contact the St Vincent's Hospital Switchboard on (03) 9288 2211. Ask to speak with the gastroenterologist on call. In an emergency you should go to your local Emergency Department or call an ambulance (dial 000).